

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MEXICO 03522 180035 Z

61

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 COME-00 DOTE-00 AGR-20 L-03 SS-15

TRSE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 NSC-10 RSR-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /087 W

----- 095203

O 172326 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6039

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MEXICO 3522

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRN, MX

SUBJECT: RETURN OF US RAIL CARS

REF: A. STATE 92355 B. MEXICO 3404

1. IN CONVERSATION TODAY WITH EMBASSY TCO, FNM DIRECTOR GENERAL GOMEZ STATED FLATLY THAT LAREDO- NUEVO LAREDO GATEWAY WILL BE "UNBLOCKED" WITHIN NEXT SEVEN DAYS. HE BASED HIS OPTIMISM ON THREE FACTORS: (A) IMPROVED MANAGEMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AT NUEVO LAREDO; (B) ACQUISITION OF ADDITIONAL LOCOMOTIVES FROM US RAILROADS; AND (C) ACQUISITION OF NEEDED COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT FOR LAREDO- NUEVO LAREDO. WITH RESPECT TO MANAGEMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, GOMEZ SAID THAT RAMIRO MARTINEZ, TRAFFIC MANAGER FOR CONASUPO AND EXPERIENCED RAILROAD MAN, HAS BEEN PLACED IN CHARGE OF ENTIRE OPERATION AT LAREDO- NUEVO LAREDO AND THAT, IN ADDITION, SOUTHERN PACIFIC HAS SENT TWO OF ITS TOP TECHNICIANS TO LAREDO GATEWAY TO ASSIST IN OPERATIONS. MOTIVE POWER CAPACITY BEING FURTHER STRENGTHENED OVER THAT REPORTED REFTEL BY ACQUISITION FROM SOUTHERN PACIFIC OF ADDITIONAL TWELVE LOCOMOTIVES EXPECTED TO ARRIVE LAREDO TODAY, WHICH IS IN ADDITION TO NINE FROM SAME RAILROAD ALREADY AT GATEWAY. GOMEZ ADDED THAT IT MAY NOW ALSO BE POSSIBLE WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS TO CLEAR UP SERIOUS BOTTLENECK AT PORT OF VERACRUZ. ADDITIONAL RADIO EQUIPMENT LOANED BY SOUTHERN PACIFIC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MEXICO 03522 180035 Z

PERMITTING WALKIE TALKIE COMMUNICATIONS WENT INTO OPERATION AT LAREDO GATEWAY TODAY. GOMEZ AWARE OF REIMPOSITION OF EMBARGO OF TEX- MEX DUE TO PILEUP OF GRAIN CARS AT ITS YARD. TO CLEAR THE YARDS, PRIORITY BEING GIVEN TO SOUTHBOUND MOVEMENT OF TEX- MEX CARS, WHICH, GOMEZ SAID, MAY IN NEXT FEW DAYS RESULT IN HIGHER RECEIPT FIGURE, BUT THAT NET DELIVERIES SHOULD BE EVEN GREATER THAN IN RECENT TWO WEEKS ONCE TEX- MEX PROBLEM IS RESOLVED.

2. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION, GOMEZ STATED THAT COORDINATION BETWEEN FNM AND US RAILWAYS INVOLVED IS, OF COURSE, VERY CLOSE AND THAT ON OPERATIONAL SIDE SUCH CONTACTS ARE CUSTOMARY AROUND THE CLOCK. ASKED FOR HIS VIEWS CONCERNING PRIORITIES IN EVENT EMBARGO NECESSARY, GOMEZ SAID THAT CARS CONTAINING GRAIN SHOULD BE GIVEN FIRST PRIORITY, BUT HE CONSIDERED QUESTION ACADEMIC SINCE BY MAY 28 DEADLINE GIVEN HIM BY AAR, SITUATION AT LAREDO AND OTHER POINTS WILL BE NORMAL AND RETURNS WILL BE WELL WITHIN WHAT HE UNDERSTANDS TO BE REQUIREMENTS OF ICC. GOMEZ EMPHASIZED THAT HE CONSIDERED AAR AGREEMENT TO DELAY ACTION UNTIL MAY 28 A FIRM COMMITMENT.

3. FOLLOWING CONVERSATION WITH GOMEZ, EMBASSY TCO TALKED SEPARATELY TO LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES OF MOPAC AND SANTA FE. NEITHER KNEW OF ANY PLANS BY THEIR COMPANIES TO IMPOSE EMBARGO, BOTH BEING UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT TEX- MEX SITUATION WAS THE ONLY CRITICAL ONE. AS FOR GOMEZ' PREDICTION THAT LAREDO GATEWAY WILL BE CLEARED OUT IN ONE WEEK, BOTH EXPRESSED OPTIMISM. SANTA FE REPRESENTATIVE SAID THAT TROUBLESHOOTER RAMIRO MARTINEZ IS A "TIGER". HE SAID THAT TEN YEARS AGO, WHEN A SIMILAR TIEUP OCCURRED AT LAREDO, FNM CALLED IN MARTINEZ WHO RESOLVED PROBLEM IN A MATTER OF DAYS. BOTH SEEMED TO THINK THAT THE DEPARTURE OF "THE LAWYERS" AND THE BRINGING IN OF EXPERIENCED RAILROAD MEN WILL DRAMATICALLY CHANGED OVERALL MANAGEMENT SITUATION FOR THE BETTER AND AT SAME TIME STRENGTHEN LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS.

4. LATEST FNM REPORT ON ENTRIES AND RETURNS AS FOLLOWS:

	ENTRIES	RETURNS
MAY 15	319	280
MAY 16	118	329

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MEXICO 03522 180035 Z

5. CONASUPO- FNM ARRANGEMENTS ARE FIRM AND AT LEAST ONE UNIT TRAIN HAS ALREADY CROSSED BORDER.

6. COMMENT: EMBASSY IMPRESSED BY ENERGY DISPLAYED BY GOMEZ AND HIS STAFF AND RECOMMENDS THAT EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO HOLD OFF COLLECTIVE OR INDIVIDUAL EMBARGOS, CERTAINLY UNTIL MAY 28.

GOMEZ UNDER IMPRESSION THAT THIS DEADLINE IS FIRM AND HAS GIVEN
EVERY INDICATION THAT HE WOULD CONSIDER DRASTIC ACTION TAKEN
BEFORE THAT DATE UNNECESSARY AND INVOLATION OF WHAT HE BELIEVES
TO BE A PROMISE.
DEAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MEXICO03522
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730547/aaaajixb.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A.STATE 92355 B. MEXICO 3404
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Jan-2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <12 FEB 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980218
Subject: RETURN OF US RAIL CARS
TAGS: ETRN, MX, ETRN
To: EB
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005